

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARCH 13, 1962

A 116 (210)

BY BURL OSBORNE

POUND, VA., MARCH 13 (AP)—FRANCIS GARY POWERS TURNED TO THE SOUTH-WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINS FOR RELAXATION TODAY, FREE OF THE CURTAIN OF SECRECY THAT SURROUNDED HIM AFTER HIS RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES FROM A RUSSIAN PRISON.

THE U2 PILOT, DRESSED IMMACULATELY AND OFTEN SMILING, TALKED OPENLY WITH NEWSMEN YESTERDAY AFTER HE WAS GIVEN A WARM--AND OFFICIAL--WELCOME BACK TO WISE COUNTY.

POWERS SAID HIS FUTURE REMAINED A QUESTION MARK. HE IS ON LEAVE FROM THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, HE SAID, AND MAY OR MAY NOT RETURN.

IN ANY CASE, POWERS SAID, THERE ARE NO U2 FLIGHTS IN HIS FUTURE.

THE PILOT SAID HE WANTS TO CONTINUE FLYING, HOWEVER, "EITHER FOR PLEASURE OR BUSINESS."

(MORE)

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POUND, VA.--FIRST ADD POWERS (A 116--BY OSBORNE) x x x BUSINESS."

FOR THE PRESENT, REST AND RENEWED ACQUAINTANCES IN THE AREA SURROUNDING HIS FATHER'S HOME ARE PLANNED. THE 32-YEAR-OLD FLYER SAID HIS WIFE, BARBARA, WILL JOIN HIM HERE AFTER HE HAS SPENT A FEW DAYS WITH HIS PARENTS, OLIVER AND IDA POWERS.

"I'M TAKING A VACATION," HE SAID YESTERDAY. THEN HE WILL BE OFF TO THE WASHINGTON AREA FOR "SEVERAL WEEKS. . .OR MONTHS," POWERS SAID.

SOME 800 PERSONS, MOSTLY OF WISE COUNTY, WELCOMED POWERS HOME. THE FLYER, HIS DARK HAIR TINGED WITH GRAY, SAID HE HOPES HIS LIFE WILL RETURN TO THE PACE HE KEPT BEFORE HIS RECONNAISSANCE PLANE WAS DOWNED INSIDE RUSSIAN TERRITORY.

SOVIET PREMIER KHRUSHCHEV USED THE INCIDENT TO WRECK A SUMMIT CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN EIGHT DAYS AFTER POWERS WAS CAPTURED MAY 1, 1960.

"I'M VERY SORRY IT BROKE UP THE CONFERENCE," POWERS SAID. "MAYBE SOMETHING WOULD HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BUT MAYBE IT WAS JUST AN EXCUSE."

P 1024 AES